THE

Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *England Scotland* and *America*.

To be publiſh'd *Weekly*.

Saturday JULY 16. 1743. §. N°. 20.

Mr. SARGEANT's *Letter finiſhed.*

'TWo or three *others* of them have been and are ſerviceable in improving the reſt of the Indians in Knowledge & Vertue. I entertain ſome Tho'ts of One's being ſent as a *Miſſionary* among his Countrymen to preach the Goſpel to them; *two* others of the younger ones promiſe very fair to prove virtuous pious and uſeful. I deſign to take *one* of them into my Houſe, and ſpend what *Money* of your's I have yet in my Hands upon him, till I receive further *Orders* from You.

'A continued Series of unweariedneſs *Kindneſs* to the Indians has (I think) at length intirely *overcome* their Jealouſies and Suſpicions; and an almoſt *univerſal* Diſpoſition to receive Inſtruction ſeems to *prevail* among them in theſe Parts: I pray GOD increaſe it; and of late a *Reformation* is very viſible among us. ---- Alſo, a *Moravian Miſſionary*, not far from hence, has to Appearance had wonderful *Succeſs* among a Number.

'Sir, I have lately *propoſed*, what has been for many Years in my *Mind*, a Deſign to ſet up *a free boarding-School* in this Place, for the Education of *Indian Children*; in which I propoſe that they ſhall be bro't up to *Labour* as well as *Learning*, and the Exerciſes of *Devotion*; with which Propoſal the *Indians* now ſeem to be mightily *taken*; being ſenſible of their *Folly* in having been formerly ſo *backward* to improve the Advantages put into their Hands. Whither *Providence* will ſo ſmile on the Deſign

'as to make it take *Effect*, I know not; but am full of 'Faith in the Matter; and doubt not but we ſhall have 'your *Prayers*, if not your *Aſſiſtance*, altho' you have al-'ready been at ſo generous an *Expence* for us; which has 'prepared the Way for *this* Deſign; for which the 'Indians ſeem'd not diſpos'd till now. But I can think of 'no *better* Method, in a natural Way, to change the '*whole State* of the Indians in *America*; and to prepare 'em for an effectual Reception of *Chriſtianity*, to change 'their Habit of *Wildneſs*, and ſpread the Knowledge of 'CHRIST thro' all their *Tribes*: The Diſpoſition to theſe 'Things ſeems more and more to prevail, and ſpread among 'them: May *Almighty Power* effect the merciful Purpo-'ſes of *ſovereign Grace* among them.

'Sir, As to your making any Allowance to *me*, for my 'Care and Trouble, of which you ſpeak in your *very obliging* '*Letter* to me; I neither *aſk* nor deſire it; and beg of you 'not to *think* of it; for I ſhould indeed be *aſhamed* to ac-'cept any Thing elſe of you (tho' my ſtated *Allowance* is 'not large) but your *Interceſſions* at the Throne of Grace 'for me, of which I ſtand in great need. We can never 'be *thankful* eno' to you, under GOD, for having *put it* 'in our Power to do ſo much to promote our general De-'ſign. Thro' your *Liberalities*, *Thankſgivings abound to* '*GOD*; who I am ſure will *reward* your Charity; and I 'doubt not but *Generations to come* will bleſs your Name; 'and you will find your Reward in *Eternity*.-------

'I beg the Favour of your Correſpondence, and a con-'tinual Intereſt in your Prayers for *Me*, and the poor '*People*, for whoſe *Salvation* I have the *Honour* and *Hap-'pineſs* to be imployed; and aſſure your Self that I am 'both on my *own* Account, and on the Behalf of the '*Indians*,

Sir,

Your moſt affectionate and obliged

Friend and Servant,

John Sargeant.

At the Deſire of ſeveral of our Cuſtomers, we propoſe to inſert in this and the following Numbers---The TESTIMONY *and* ADVICE *of the late venerable* ASSEMBLY *of* MINISTERS, *met at* Boſton *on Thurſday* July *7th Currant. And as an* Introduction thereto *have obtained of the Rev. Mr.* Prince, *one of the* Scribes *of ſaid Aſſembly, the following Account*, viz.

An *Account* of the late ASSEMBLY of *Paſtors* &c.

On *Friday* May 27 laſt, a Number of *Miniſters* belonging both to *Boſton* and *divers Towns* in the *Country*, conferring together and judging that the Honour and Intereſt of CHRIST call'd them to make a general INQUIRY into the State of *Religion* in this Land, and with others to bear their TESTIMONY to the *wondrous Work* of *his Power* and *Grace* in the late *Revival* of *Religion* among us ; agreed to publiſh the following INVITATION in one of the *News-Papers.*

Accordingly, in the *Boſton-Gazette* of *Tueſday* May 31, the ſaid INVITATION appeared in the following Terms---

'To the Publiſhers of the Boſton Gazette.

'*Some of your Cuſtomers deſire you to inſert this in your next Paper.*

'It is deſir'd and propoſed by a Number of Miniſters both 'in *Town* and *Country*, that *ſuch* of their Brethren *as are perſwaded there has of late been a happy* REVIVAL *of* 'RELIGION, *thro' an extraordinary divine Influence, in many Parts of this Land*, and are concern'd for the Honour 'and Progreſs of *this remarkable Work of GOD*, may have 'an INTERVIEW at BOSTON, the *Day after* the approaching *Commencement* ; To conſider whether they are not 'called to give an open conjunct TESTIMONY *to* an *Event ſo ſurprizing and gracious* ; as well as *againſt* thoſe *Errors* 'in Doctrine and *Diſorders* in Practice, which thro' the 'permitted Agency of *Satan* have attended it, and in any 'Meaſure blemiſhed it's Glory and hindred its Advancement : And alſo to conſult the moſt likely *Methods* to be 'taken, to guard People againſt *ſuch Deluſions* & *Miſtakes* 'as in ſuch a Seaſon they are in Danger of falling into, 'and that *this bleſſed Work* may *continue* and *flouriſh* among 'us.

'But if any Gentlemen who *heartily concur* in the End 'and Deſign of this Propoſal, may be hindred in Providence 'from giving their Preſence at this deſign'd INTERVIEW; 'It is earneſtly deſired they would ſend their ATTESTA-'TIONS, and communicate their Thoughts ſeaſonably in 'Writing: Tho' at the ſame Time it is hoped, none will 'ſuffer ſmall Difficulties to prevent their Attendance on an 'Affair of ſuch Importance to the Intereſt of CHRIST's 'Kingdom, both *Here* and in *other* Parts of the World.'

Agreable to this *Invitation*, a conſiderable Number of *Miniſters* met at *Boſton* on *Thurſday* July 7. in the *Forenoon*: when the Rev. Mr. *White* of *Gloceſter* open'd the Aſſembly with *Prayer*; They had ſome Diſcourſe; and then adjourn'd (in order to attend the *publick Lecture*) to half an Hour paſt two in the *Afternoon*.

In the *Afternoon* they met to the Number of *ninety*, choſe Dr. *Colman* Moderator, Dr. *Sewall* Aſſiſtant, and Mr. *Prince* and Mr. *Hobby*, Scribes. But Dr. *Colman* excuſing himſelf, Dr. *Sewall* acted as Moderator.

They then proceeded to read *Letters* from *twenty eight* who were abſent, bearing their *Teſtimony* to this remarkable Work of GOD in the Land. And after further Inquiries, Declarations, Diſcourſes and Debates, a little after eight in the *Evening*, was read, propoſed and put, without any Objection, the following VOTE, viz.

'We Paſtors of Churches in the Provinces of the '*Maſſachuſetts-Bay* & *New-Hampſhire* in NEW-ENGLAND, 'met at *Boſton* this 7th Day of *July* 1743, being *per-'ſwaded there has of late been a happy Revival of Religion*, 'thro' a remarkable divine Influence in many Parts of this 'Land, and apprehending it our *Duty* to give an open 'conjunct TESTIMONY, to the Glory of GOD, *to* an '*Event ſo ſurprizing and gracious*, as well as *againſt* thoſe '*Errors* in Doctrine, and *Diſorders* in Practice which thro' '*humane Frailties* and *Corruptions* and the permitted Agency 'of *Satan* have attended it, and in any Meaſure blemiſhed 'its Glory and hindred its Advancement; came to the 'following RESOLUTION, *that a* COMMITTEE *be choſen 'to conſider the* Premiſſes *and make a* Report *to Morrow '*Morning at nine of the Clock*'. Voted in the affirmative Generally.

And

And choſe the Rev. Dr. *Sewall*, Mr. *Wiggleſworth*, *Prince*, *Adams*, *Cooper*, *Nathaniel Rogers*, *Leonard* and *Hobby*, to be ſaid COMMITTEE.

The Rev. Mr. MOODY pray'd.

And they *adjourn'd* to meet to *Morrow Morning* at nine of the Clock.

FRYDAY MORNING

About 10, they met again, to the Number of about *Seventy*. Dr. SEWALL *pray'd:* and then preſented the Committee's Report: Firſt we read the *whole* throughout:

Then began again, and read the *Introduction:*

Then read & ſeverally conſidered the *following Paragraphs:* And after diverſe *Amendments*, proceeded to SUBSCRIBE.

VOTED, 'That Mr. *Prince*, *Cooper* and *Gee*, be a *Committee* to take Care of publiſhing the ſubſcribed TESTIMONY and ADVICE, together with ſuitable *Extracts* from the *Letters* communicated to us.'

Rev. Mr. BAXTER return'd *Thanks* and *Pray'd.*

And about three in the *Afternoon* we Diſſolve.

A true Account according to the *Minutes.*

THOMAS PRINCE, *Scribe.*

The ſaid RESULT *is as follows* ---

The TESTIMONY and ADVICE of an Aſſembly of Paſtors of Churches in *New-England*, at a Meeting in *Boſton* July 7. 1743. Occaſion'd by the late happy Revival of Religion in many Parts of the Land. To which are added, ATTESTATIONS contain'd in *Letters* from a Number of *their Brethren* who were providentially hinder'd from giving their Preſence.

'IF it is the Duty of every one, capable of Obſervation and Reflection, to take a conſtant religious Notice of what occurs in the daily Courſe of common Providence; how much more is it expected that thoſe Events in the divine Œconomy, wherein there is a ſignal Diſplay of the Power, Grace and Mercy of GOD in behalf of the Church, ſhould be obſerv'd with ſacred Wonder, Plea-

ſure

‘ ſure and Gratitude ?---- Nor ſhould the People of GOD
‘ content themſelves with a *ſilent* Notice, but *publiſh with*
‘ *the Voice of Thankſgiving, and tell of all his wondrous*
‘ *Works.*----

‘ More particularly, When CHRIST is pleas'd to come
‘ into his Church in a plentiful Effuſion of his Holy Spirit,
‘ by whoſe powerful Influences the Miniſtration of the
‘ Word is attended with uncommon Succeſs, Salvation-
‘ Work carried on in an eminent Manner, and his King-
‘ dom, which is *within Men*, and conſiſts *in Righteouſneſs*
‘ *and Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghoſt*, is notably advan-
‘ ced,--- THIS is an Event which above all others invites
‘ the Notice, and beſpeaks the Praiſes of the Lord's People,
‘ and ſhould be declar'd abroad for a *Memorial* of the divine
‘ Grace ; ----- as it tends to confirm the Divinity of a de-
‘ ſpiſed Goſpel, and manifeſts the Work of the Holy Spirit
‘ in the Application of Redemption, which too many are
‘ ready to reproach ; as it may have a happy Effect, by the
‘ divine Bleſſing, for the Revival of Religion in other Places,
‘ and the Enlargement of the Kingdom of CHRIST in the
‘ World ; ---and as it tends to enliven the Prayers, ſtrengthen
‘ the Faith, and raiſe the Hopes, of ſuch as are *waiting for*
‘ *the Kingdom of God*, and the coming on of the Glory of the
‘ latter Days.----

‘ But if it is juſtly expected of all who profeſs themſelves
‘ the Diſciples of CHRIST, that they ſhould openly acknow-
‘ ledge and rejoice in a Work of this Nature, wherein the
‘ Honour of their divine Maſter is ſo much concerned ; How
‘ much more is it to be look'd for from thoſe who are em-
‘ ploy'd in the *Miniſtry of the LORD JESUS*, and ſo ſtand
‘ in a ſpecial Relation to him, as Servants of his Houſhold,
‘ and Officers in his Kingdom ?---- *Theſe* ſtand as *Watchmen*
‘ upon the Walls of *Jeruſalem* ; and it is their Buſineſs not
‘ only to give the Alarm of War when the Enemy is ap-
‘ proaching, but to ſound the Trumpet of Praiſe when *the*
‘ *King of Zion cometh*, in a *meek* Triumph, *having Salvation.*--

‘ For theſe and other Reaſons, We, whoſe Names are
‘ hereunto annexed, Paſtors of Churches in *New-England*,
‘ met together in *Boſton*, July 7th 1743, think it *our* indiſ-
‘ penſable Duty, (without judging or cenſuring ſuch of our

‘ Bre-

‘ Brethren as cannot at preſent ſee Things in the ſame Light
‘ with us) in this open and conjunct Manner to declare, to
‘ the Glory of ſovereign Grace, our full Perſwaſion, either
‘ from what we have ſeen ourſelves, or received upon credi-
‘ ble Teſtimony, that there has been a *happy* and *remarkable*
‘ *Revival of Religion in many Parts of this Land, through an*
‘ *uncommon divine Influence*; after a long Time of great De-
‘ cay and Deadneſs, and a ſenſible and very awful Withdraw
‘ of the Holy Spirit from his Sanctuary among us.---

‘ Tho' the Work of Grace wro't on the Hearts of Men
‘ by the Word and Spirit of GOD, and which has been
‘ more or leſs carried on in the Church from the Begin-
‘ ning, is always the ſame for Subſtance, and agrees, at
‘ one Time and another, in one Place or Perſon and ano-
‘ ther, as to the main Strokes and Lineaments of it, yet
‘ the *preſent Work* appears to be remarkable and extra-
‘ ordinary,

‘ On Account of the *Numbers wrought upon* ---- We
‘ never before ſaw ſo many brought under Soul-Concern,
‘ and with Diſtreſs making the Inquiry, *What muſt we do to*
‘ *be ſaved?* And theſe Perſons of all Characters and
‘ Ages. ----- With Regard to the *Suddenneſs* and *quick*
‘ *Progreſs* of it ----- Many Perſons and Places were ſur-
‘ prized with the gracious Viſit together, or near about the
‘ ſame Time; and the heavenly Influence diffus'd itſelf far
‘ and wide like the Light of the Morning.---- Alſo in Reſpect
‘ of the *Degree of Operation*, both in a Way of *Terror* and
‘ in a Way of *Conſolation*; attended in many with unuſual
‘ *bodily Effects*.---

‘ Not that all who are accounted the Subjects of the
‘ preſent Work, have had theſe extraordinary Degrees of
‘ previous Diſtreſs and ſubſequent Joy. But many, and
‘ we ſuppoſe the greater Number, have been wrought on in
‘ a more gentle and ſilent Way, and without any other
‘ Appearances than are common and uſual at other Times,
‘ when Perſons have been awakened to a ſolemn Concern
‘ about Salvation, and have been thought to have paſs'd out
‘ of a State of Nature into a State of Grace.

‘ As to thoſe whoſe *inward Concern* has occaſioned extra-
‘ ordinary *outward Diſtreſſes*, the moſt of them when we
‘ came to converſe with them, were able to give, what
‘ appear'd to us, a rational Account of what ſo affected

‘ their

‘ their Minds; *viz.* A quick Senſe of their *Guilt*, *Miſery* ‘ and *Danger*; and they would often mention the Paſſages ‘ in the Sermons they heard, or particular Texts of Scrip- ‘ ture, which were ſet home upon them with ſuch a power- ‘ ful Impreſſion. ---- And as to ſuch whoſe *Joys* have car- ‘ ried them into *Tranſports* and *Extaſies*, they in like Man- ‘ ner have accounted for *them*, from a lively Senſe of the ‘ Danger they hop'd they were freed from, and the Hap- ‘ pineſs they were now poſſeſs'd of; ſuch clear Views of ‘ divine and heavenly Things, and particularly of the Ex- ‘ cellencies and Lovelineſs of JESUS CHRIST, and ſuch ‘ ſweet Taſtes of redeeming Love as they never had be- ‘ fore.---- The Inſtances were very few in which we had ‘ Reaſon to think theſe Affections were produced by *viſionary* ‘ or ſenſible Repreſentations, or by any other Images than ‘ ſuch as the Scripture it ſelf preſents unto us.

‘ And here we think it not amiſs to declare, that in deal- ‘ ing with theſe Perſons we have been careful to inform ‘ them, That the Nature of Converſion does not conſiſt in ‘ theſe paſſionate Feelings; and to warn them not to look ‘ upon their State ſafe, becauſe they have paſs'd out of deep ‘ Diſtreſs into high Joys, unleſs they experience a Renova- ‘ tion of Nature, follow'd with a Change of Life, and a ‘ Courſe of vital Holineſs.------- Nor have we gone into ſuch ‘ an Opinion of the *bodily Effects* with which this Work has ‘ been attended in ſome of its Subjects, as to judge them any ‘ Signs that Perſons who have been ſo affected, were *then* ‘ under a *ſaving Work* of the Spirit of God. No; We ne- ‘ ver ſo much as call'd theſe bodily Seizures, *Convictions*; or ‘ ſpake of them as the immediate Work of the Holy Spirit. ‘ Yet we do not think them inconſiſtent with a Work of ‘ God upon the Soul at that very Time; but judge that thoſe ‘ inward Impreſſions which come from the Spirit of God, ‘ thoſe Terrors and Conſolations of which he is the Author, ‘ may, according to the natural Frame and Conſtitution ‘ which ſome Perſons are of, occaſion ſuch bodily Effects.---- ‘ And therefore that thoſe extraordinary outward Symptoms, ‘ are not an Argument that the Work is deluſive, or from the ‘ Influence and Agency of the evil Spirit.

(*To be continued.*)